UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/849
14 October 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 12 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 0845 hours on 5 October 1996, an Iraqi ship, the Bay'ah, was approached by a United States military helicopter while she was at sea in the 14-mile zone south of Mina al-Bakr. The helicopter descended and 18 United States servicemen, including an officer, boarded the ship and searched her, but found nothing. At 1040 hours the Americans left the ship after having completed their search operation.

I would request you to intervene with the United States in order to put an end to such hostile acts against Iraqi civilian vessels, which are unjustifiable and violate the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of public international law.

I also reaffirm the legitimate right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the property damage sustained by it as a result of this hostile act, in accordance with the principle of international accountability.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

---

96-27567 (E) 151096 151096